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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

An early April trip to the Lake Crescent Region,
Olympic Peninsula, Wn.

It was our privilege to be able to spend the first two weeks of the past April at Lake Crescent, just within the Olympic mountain region, and although this was too early for most of the migratory species of birds, withal our stay was of interest.

During the greater part of the period named the temperature was below normal, little sunshine prevailed and frequent winds and storms swept the lake, these latter with two exceptions being rain, but on the mountain sides occurred numerous falls of snow, which added to the beauty of the landscape.

On our arrival on the second of April, what particularly attracted the attention was the large numbers of Varied Thrushes and Shufeldt's Juncos to be seen, these were migrating through the region along the lake from east to west, and although both species are common summer residents of the section; we have never before noted them in similar abundance; and this movement continued up to our departure on the eighteenth, with no apparent diminution of their numbers. The fine song of the Varied Thrush was to be heard each day at all hours, particularly during the misty rains, this being an added charm to the wild surroundings.

With the Shufeldt's Juncos were individuals that were undoubtedly oreganus, and we also secured an example of hyemalis that was in the company of a number of shufeldti.

The other species in evidence at this time were numbers of the Western Robin, with these being on occasions some well defined caurinus west (Northwestern Robin), as yet an unrecognized race. Typical examples of this subspecies are not hard to distinguish from the common propinquus.

Western Winter Wrens, Western Golden-crowned Kinglets, Chestnut-backed Chickadees were quite common and nearly each morning could be heard the drumming of the Oregon Ruffed Grouse, and on occasions the "hooting" of a Sooty Grouse far up on the mountain side. Intermittently were to be seen Steller's Jay, Northern Redbreasted Sapsucker, Northwest Flicker, Northwest Crow, but these species are not very common in this particular section, although seemingly well distributed.

Harri's Woodpecker was quite common, being often heard and seen, and at times the loud call of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker was heard and a glimpse of the bird obtained.

A few days after reaching the lake we noted as arrivals, Audubon's Warbler and the Lutescent Warbler, but these were few in number.

There was a fine pair of Bald Eagles nesting in the heavy forest along the shore of the lake, and it was an inspiring sight to see these birds on occasions swinging high in air in advance of some of the violent storms that swept down the lake.

On April tenth we heard the song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and at the lake's east end Townsend's Warbler, these indicating the van of the migration of other species soon to appear. On nearly every day thereafter these two species were heard with a few additional Audubon's Warblers; and on the day of our departure appeared the first Golden-crowned Sparrow right on the average date for its appearance.

As usual, this being our experience from former trips, at times the Oregon Jay could be found in pairs and small flocks in the forest on the mountain sides or near the lake, and a few fine examples were taken. To secure them ordinarily entailed considerable work and one is never certain of finding the species at all. The birds are very interesting to observe and one's interest does not flag when so engaged.

All along the lake shore at intervals was to be seen the Dipper or Ouzel, and on numerous occasions on some quiet still morning when the lake was at rest would be heard many times repeated, its striking song so unlike that of other birds. It was a delight to row quietly along the lake shore very early in the morning, and listen to this species and also the Varied Thrush, the song of the latter coming from the forest on the mountain side.

On one occasion we climbed the mountain side on the south shore of the lake to an elevation of 3500 feet, the greater part of the way through the snow, which became so deep at the altitude reached that further progress was hardly possible. On this trip but two birds were seen or heard; a Red-breasted Nuthatch at 3000 feet, and at 1200 feet a Western Golden-crowned Kinglet. The day was not propitious for observation however, there being some light snowfalls on the mountain side and a low temperature.

But few water birds were noted. On the fifth was seen the first Holboell's Grebe, which thereafter was not uncommon, and a number of Horned Grebes were also seen, both species being in full nuptial plumage. Several flocks of Surf Scoters (*Perspicillata*), a few Mergansers and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Glaucous-winged Gulls complete the list, for the lake is apparently not much of a resort for this class of birds especially in the spring.

The shape of the lake, as its name indicates, is somewhat that of a crescent and the preceding remarks in regard to the land birds noted apply to the upper or western half: i.e., that part above the abrupt curvature occurring about midway from the lower extremity. In this latter section the surrounding hills are much lower, have been more or less logged in part years and later swept by fire, and hence being much more open are the resort of a few species that as yet have not appeared in the upper section. The same species were noted here however as at the upper part, and in addition the Northwestern Redwing, of which there was a small colony about a little marsh, the only one on the lake, a few pairs of Tree and Violet-green Swallows, and a number of Coots.

On the whole, although no new material was obtained as a result of the trip, we did add somewhat to our knowledge of species distribution at the particular season as stated, and this in connection with the trip itself at the to this region, which is always interesting, more than compensated for the inclement weather that prevailed the greater part of our stay and any accompanying inconvenience.

S. F. Rathbun,
Seattle, Wn., May, 1920.

Report of J. Hooper Bowles of Tacoma, Washington.

Feb. 28th.- Mr. Fred Edwards of Tacoma, spent the day cruising on Puget Sound near Tacoma. He collected specimens of the Marbled Murrelet, California Murre, Short-billed Gull, Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Mallard, Scaup Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Golden-eye. Among other species noted were Baldpate, White-winged Scoter, Northwest Coast Heron, and several Bald Eagle. Mallards were very numerous, nearly all paired, and one pair was collected in order to ascertain when birds of this species frequenting the salt water are likely to breed. Most of the ovaries were small, only a few being as large as No. 2 shot, which makes it seem possible that these saltwater birds go north to breed. At this season most of our local Mallards are in freshwater nesting haunts, and many of them have started laying. Neither the Murrelets nor the Murres showed any signs of the breeding plumage. An interesting feature in one of the Murres is the upper mandible, which is very considerably elongated and considerably curved like a bird of prey. It was in good condition.